

January 31, 2014

Weekly Views

Commissioner Bruce Lemmon presented FitBits to Indiana Department of Correction staff who placed as top participants in the Healthy Lifestyles Walking Challenge sponsored by Invest in Your Health in 2013. Out of 626 active participants, Ryan Mapes (Putnamville), ranked third in team participation with 340,429 steps, and in the individual competition, Carol Foster (IWP) ranked first with 1,259,680 steps and Christopher Meredith (Miami) was fourth with 938,975 steps.

Back by popular demand, puppies! The Indiana Women's Prison Indiana Canine Assistance Network (ICAN) program received nine new bundles of puppy joy. All the puppies will be

named with a 'J' name with the exception of one that is being given Nelson Mandela's tribal name, Madiba. The puppies will receive their first leg of training on potty-training. This will be a big undertaking and very time consuming for the offenders and staff. Several offenders say they don't mind at all because they know that their labor will eventually help someone in need. (photo right)

Edinburgh Correctional Facility Correctional Officer Justin Butler presented a check for \$200, earned through offender fund raisers, to United Services Organization (USO) of Indiana representative Frankie Miller. The USO of Indiana provides high-quality programs and services to the men and women in uniform, and their families in Indiana.

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility staff said goodbye and good luck to Human Resources (HR) Generalist Terry Tackett. Tackett has led the Wabash HR team for over three years and was the 2011 IDOC Human Resources Employee of the Year. Tackett will be based in Indianapolis as a State Personnel Human Resources Director, handling HR needs for nine agencies. Congratulations! (photo left)

Staff at the Rockville Correctional Facility reluctantly said farewell to Human Resources Generalist Amber Hughes. Ms. Hughes has accepted a position with State Personnel in the Small Agencies Division where she will share her expertise and guidance with various government offices such as the Department of Agriculture, Professional License Agency and the office of the Lieutenant Governor, among others. Ms. Hughes began her career with IDOC as a Clerical Assistant at the Putnamville Correctional Facility in November 1997. After promoting through several positions throughout the Department, Ms. Hughes was promoted to Human Resources Generalist at Rockville in May 2010. Ms. Hughes will be missed by all those who benefitted from her wealth of knowledge and expertise in her field, but she leaves with warm wishes in this new and challenging opportunity.

The Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility held a GED graduation ceremony for 25 students. Two of the students were recognized as honors students scoring over a 620 average, and one student scored a perfect 800 on the math portion of the test. This is the last group of GED graduating students that will come from the facility as it transitions into the new high school equivalency exam test which will focus on developing higher order thinking skills.

A Staff Assembly was conducted at the Pendleton Correctional Facility. Training Officer Jill Savage was named as the facility's Employee of the Quarter and Sergeant Brandon Grubbs was named as the facility's Supervisor of the Quarter. During the assembly the facility also recognized three employees who are retiring this week; Correctional Officer Nila Hague, Correctional Officer Debbie Shelton, and Correctional Officer David Tesdal. Everyone at the facility would like to congratulate these employees, thank them for their service, and wish them well during their retirement.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility held their Quarterly Assembly. Indiana Supreme Court Justice Steven David spoke at the assembly about the great job that correctional staff are doing and the collaboration between communities, courts and corrections. Superintendent Linda Commons recognized staff for perfect attendance, going the "extra mile", years of service and quarterly awards: Youth Development Specialist of the Quarter Adam Paxson, Non-custody Employee of the Quarter Tyler Mason and Supervisor of the Quarter to Sergeant Hathcock. Lieutenant Runyon received Employee of the Year. Nancy Riley, Director of Staff Development and Training, presented Tyler Mason with a Staff Development and Training Coin for his instrumental role in implementing Joint Understanding and Cooperation Program. (photo right) A GED graduation was held after the facility assembly. Justice Steven David spoke to the graduates regarding continuing their education and establishing goals. Students and their families enjoyed a reception following the graduation.

Staff at the Westville Correctional Facility (WCC) showed their support of the Red Cross at a facility sponsored blood drive where 41 pints of blood were donated. Amid the cold, blistery January weather, staff trekked over to the donation center to do their part in saving lives. Because the Red Cross deems WCC such a successful donation site, the blood drives will be held consistently at the facility on the mandated 60 day donation cycle.

